

REMARKS

This is in response to the non-final Official Action currently outstanding with regard to the above-identified application.

Claims 1-6 were pending at the time of the issuance of the currently outstanding Official Action in the above-identified application. By the foregoing Amendment, Applicants have amended Claims 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6. In addition, Claim 5 has been canceled, without prejudice. Otherwise, no claims have been either added or withdrawn by the foregoing Amendment. Accordingly, upon the entry of the foregoing Amendment, Claims 1-4 and 6 as hereinabove amended will constitute the claims under active prosecution in this application.

The Claims of this application are reproduced above with appropriate status identifiers and showing the changes made by this Amendment as required by the Rules.

More particularly, in the currently outstanding non-final Official Action the Examiner has:

1. Acknowledged Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 USC §119 (a)-(d) or (f), and confirmed the receipt by the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the required copies of the priority documents;
2. Accepted the formal drawings filed with the above-identified application on 6 January 2005;
3. Acknowledged Applicants' Information Disclosure Statements as filed on 6 January 2005 and on 4 June 2007 by providing applicants with signed, dated and initialed copies of the Forms PTO/SB/08a/b that accompanied those Statements in confirmation of the consideration of the art listed therein;

3. Objected to Claim 6 under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of the claim from which it depends (i.e., Claim 5) since Claim 5 is directed to a program and Claim 6 simply recites the storage of that program on a recording medium. Further, the Examiner has rejected Claim 5 (from which Claim 6 depends) under 35 USC 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter (i.e., a computer program *per se*). – **By the foregoing Amendment, Applicants have canceled Claim 5, without prejudice and have added the steps of the method to be performed by a computer in response to the instructions stored on the specified rewriteable medium to Claim 6. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that these Amendments overcome the Examiner's objection to Claim 6 and his rejection of Claim 5 under 35 USC 101. A decision so holding in response to this communication is respectfully requested. Further, Applicants have amended the Title of the Invention so as to remove the reference to a Program contained therein in order that the Title of the Invention will remain appropriately descriptive of the subject matter now being claimed.**
4. Indicated that Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Squilla et al (US Patent No. 5,898,779) in view of Pavlik (US Patent No. 6,807,633).

Further comment regarding items 1-3 above is not deemed to be required in these Remarks.

With respect to item 4, on the other hand, Applicants by the foregoing Amendment have amended Claims 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 for consistency of expression and so as to include the following features that are respectfully submitted not to be present in the art cited and applied against the claims of this application by the Examiner. In particular, the features added to the claims by the foregoing Amendment, as well as the support therefor in the present specification, are as follows:

1. The rewritable medium has a plurality of signature regions.
(See, Fig. 2 and Page 10, lines 8-11 of the present specification)
2. Whether or not a signature is registered in each of the signature regions can be checked visually.
(See, Fig. 2 and Page 10, lines 19-25 of the present specification)
3. When an additional signature is going to be registered, it is checked whether or not any tampering has occurred.
(See, Page 15, lines 24-29 of the present specification)
4. After it has been verified that no tampering has occurred, the signature of a certifier is registered in a visually checkable and electronically readable manner.
(See, Fig. 4 and Page 14, line 5 to Page 15 line 1 of the present specification)


Applicant respectfully submits that the foregoing features clarify the fact that in the present invention it is possible to register a plurality of signatures and to check, visually and easily, whether or not any tampering has occurred.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-4 and 6 as hereinabove amended now are in condition for allowance. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendment and Remarks are respectfully requested.

Applicants also believe that additional fees beyond those submitted herewith are not required in connection with the consideration of this response to the currently outstanding Official Action. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge and/or credit Deposit Account No. 04-1105, as necessary, for the correct payment of all fees which may be due in connection with the filing and consideration of this communication.

Respectfully submitted,

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SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

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